



JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

March 5, 2008

The Judicial Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on March 5, 2008 at 5:55 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

David M. Talamante, Chairman
Marlon E. Branham
Michael B. Cowan
Stella Hunsaker
Scott Rhodes
Linda Rottman
Murray G. Snow

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Kathleen Broman
Michael Claspell

1. Approve the minutes from the February 6, 2008 Judicial Advisory Board meeting.

It was moved by Boardmember Rhodes, seconded by Boardmember Rottman, that the minutes of the February 6, 2008 Judicial Advisory Board meeting be approved.

Chairman Talamante declared the motion carried unanimously.

2. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the reappointment of Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya.

Chairman Talamante declared the public hearing open at 5:56 p.m. for the purpose of receiving comments on the reappointment of Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya.

Court Administrator Paul Thomas addressed the Boardmembers and expressed support for the reappointments of Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya, Magistrate Robin Allen and Magistrate Elizabeth Arriola. He explained that the Mesa Municipal Court has experienced a series of budgetary impacts over the past few years, including limited funding and the layoff of personnel. Mr. Thomas advised that the Court is mandated to resolve 98% of its Driving Under the Influence (DUI) cases within 180 days and said that it is anticipated that the facility would also be required to process an additional 19,000 photo safety citations in the coming year.

Mr. Thomas also spoke regarding the creation of performance measures for Court staff; the development of trial court performance standards for the limited courts; the review and

modification of case processing methods that would be implemented at the new Municipal Court Building; the establishment of a dedicated arraignment division; and the forging of major projects into the future.

Mr. Thomas further indicated that Presiding Magistrate Tafoya played a key role in successfully implementing the above-listed items and has consistently demonstrated strong leadership skills during his tenure as Presiding Magistrate. He urged the Board to recommend his reappointment to the City Council.

Administrative Support Assistant III Susan Bozile expressed support for the reappointment of Presiding Magistrate Tafoya. She commented that he presides over an outstanding bench of judges and said that he regularly seeks input and feedback not only from those individuals, but also from Court staff in general.

There being no additional citizens present wishing to speak on this issue, Chairman Talamante declared the public hearing closed at 6:09 p.m.

3. Interview Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya for reappointment.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya.

Chairman Talamante thanked Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya for his input.

4. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the reappointment of Magistrate Robin Allen.

Chairman Talamante declared the public hearing open at 6:44 p.m. for the purpose of receiving comments on the reappointment of Magistrate Robin Allen.

Presiding Magistrate Tafoya recommended Magistrate Robin Allen's reappointment for a four-year term. He stated that Magistrate Allen presides over a just courtroom, is an excellent case manager, and a great asset to the Court.

There being no additional citizens present wishing to speak on this issue, Chairman Talamante declared the public hearing closed at 6:46 p.m.

5. Interview Magistrate Robin Allen for reappointment.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to Magistrate Robin Allen.

Chairman Talamante thanked Magistrate Allen for his input.

(Chairman Talamante declared a brief recess at 7:30 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:46 p.m.)

6. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the reappointment of Magistrate Elizabeth Arriola.

Chairman Talamante declared the public hearing open at 7:46 p.m. for the purpose of receiving comments on the reappointment of Magistrate Elizabeth Arriola.

Presiding Magistrate Tafoya stated that he is honored to recommend that Magistrate Elizabeth Arriola be reappointed for a two-year term. He noted that she has been a judicial officer for more than 20 years and commented that she treats everyone that comes before her bench with dignity and respect.

There being no additional citizens present wishing to speak on this issue, Chairman Talamante declared the public hearing closed at 7:49 p.m.

7. Interview Magistrate Elizabeth Arriola for reappointment.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to Magistrate Elizabeth Arriola.

Chairman Talamante thanked Magistrate Arriola for her input.

8. Convene an Executive Session.

- a. Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of the City. (A.R.S. 38-431.03A(1))
 - 1. Reappointment items for Presiding Magistrate Tafoya
 - 2. Reappointment items for Magistrate Allen
 - 3. Reappointment items for Magistrate Arriola

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Cowan, that an Executive Session be convened at 8:12 p.m. to discuss the reappointments of Presiding Magistrate Tafoya and Magistrates Allen and Arriola.

Chairman Talamante declared the motion carried unanimously.

(At 8:59 p.m., the Executive Session adjourned and the Board reconvened their regular meeting.)

9. Discuss and make recommendations to the City Council on the reappointment of Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya for a four-year term, Magistrate Robin Allen for a four-year term and Magistrate Elizabeth Arriola for a two-year term.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Cowan, that Presiding Magistrate Matt Tafoya be reappointed for a four-year term.

Chairman Talamante declared the motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Boardmember Rhodes, seconded by Boardmember Snow, that Magistrate Robin Allen be reappointed for a four-year term.

Chairman Talamante declared the motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Boardmember Hunsaker, seconded by Boardmember Rottman, that Magistrate Elizabeth Arriola be reappointed for a two-year term.

Chairman Talamante declared the motion carried unanimously.

Boardmember Rottman commented that in speaking for her fellow Boardmembers, she would like to express how fortunate the City of Mesa is to have judges the caliber of Presiding Magistrate Tafoya and Magistrates Allen and Arriola in its organization. She added that the Board strongly recommends their reappointments.

10. Adjournment.

It was moved by Boardmember Snow, seconded by Boardmember Cowan, that the meeting of the Judicial Advisory Board be adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Judicial Advisory Board meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 5th day of March 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK